

GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

COMPANIES

Davey Tree to be sold to employe group

Ownership of Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, Ohio, will be turned over to its employes, board chairman Alexander M. Smith announced last month.

The acquisition of control by the employe group is expected to be completed in early next year, Smith said. Davey has about 2,500 employes, is licensed in 45 states and expects to do about \$50 million dollars worth of business this year, according to marketing manager Henry D. Schmid.

The sale to employes insures that the corporate offices and headquarters will remain in Kent.

The essential features of the plan involve an offer by Davey to repurchase outstanding common shares, the establishment of an employe stock ownership plan and trust, and the sale of common shares to the trust and to employes.

The price for the shares of Davey in these transactions is based on a value of approximately \$9 million for the company.

Smith said: "The selling shareholders are pleased to be able to transfer control of the company to the employes who have done so much to make this successful leader in the tree and lawn care field." Davey Landscape Service is a division of Davey Tree which operates in eight cities in the midwest.

The major shareholders are getting along in years," he added. He said that most of the stock is owned by relatives of the founder and they did not want to turn it over to outsiders.

VARIETIES

New creeping bent released by Penn State

A new seeded creeping bentgrass designed for golf courses has been released by Dr. Joseph M. Duich of Penn State University.

The new bentgrass — "Penn-eagle" — has been in development 20 years.

Dr. Duich said that the new grass should be excellent for the entire course and offers the golf superintendent a grass that can be used for tees, fairways and greens. Penn-eagle is being grown by Penncross Bentgrass Growers Association, Salem, Ore., and will be marketed by the Tee-2-Green Corp., Kansas City, Mo.

The new bentgrass's attributes are listed as a tighter, more upright growing bent, that is finer-leaved than most bentgrasses. The broad genetic base offers greater disease resistance under a variety of climatic conditions.

The new grass is not overly aggressive but is competitive with *Poa annua*.

Development of the bentgrass began in 1958 with 158 vegetatively

propagated bents, Dr. Duich said. From that broad base, 21 plants were selected for turf performance. These were selected in combinations of threes and tested for compatible flowering time. Some combinations were not satisfactory and eventually four sets of three plants each were put into turf screening to determine quality.

In 1963, 1965, 1969 and 1973, turf screening continued on the new variety and ultimately ended up with four parents to give the new grass a broad genetic base so that plants could withstand climatic differences. The new grass has been

tested in a seven-state area with broad climatic variations and has also been under test in Canada.

COMPANIES

Gravelly acquires Hahn assets

Clarke-Gravelly Corp., Clemmons, N.C. has purchased the operating assets of Hahn, Inc.'s Outdoor Products Div., Evansville, Ind.

The Hahn division manufactures and markets rear-engine riding



Ferrari International, Inc. has completed its move to new corporate headquarters in San Marcos, California. President Harold Sankey said, "Our sales have doubled in the last three years and this new building will form the basis for our projected growth."

Landscape contractors top billion dollar mark

An accurate demographic sample of the Associated Landscape Contractor Association's membership has shown that the average commercial firm in the country has a business volume of \$340,000. This average firm owns \$122,000 worth of equipment, purchased almost \$30,000 worth of equipment in the last 12 months and also purchased approximately \$153,000 worth of supplies and materials during that period.

Categorized, a small contractor (under \$½ million) had an average volume of \$244,000, presently owns \$77,600 worth of equipment and purchased \$16,000 worth of equipment during the past 12 months. He purchased \$71,000 in supplies during that period.

The medium contractor figures are \$915,000, \$150,000, \$15,000 and \$256,000, respectively. The large contractor figures are \$3,440,000, \$686,000, \$225,000, and \$1,057,000, respectively.

Extrapolated to cover the entire industry, an estimated 3200 firms who are primarily landscape contractors, total annual business volume was \$1,084,000,000. Equipment purchased over the last year amounted to \$89,600,000 and supplies were \$490,000,000.

ALCA network to provide wage input

ALCA has set up a network of landscape contractors to provide some input into the Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage situation when a government landscape job is put up for bid.

Basically, what happened in the past was that, when the government had a job to let in a certain county, they would send a request to the local labor hall, asking them to certify to the Department of Labor the wages that had been paid for landscaping work in that county during the past 12 months.

That figure would often get distorted and a landscape contractor who bid the job under his usual wage scale would suddenly find that his bid had been accepted but that he had to pay a much higher wage than normal. The contractor can go in and renegotiate at that stage, but success is questionable.

ALCA has been able to get the Wage and Hour people at the Department of Labor to send them a copy of the prevailing wage request. They then contact one of ten regional people across the country who in turn try to contact someone who has actually performed landscape work in that county.

While that sounds good in theory, it doesn't always work, according to John Shaw, Executive Director of ALCA.

There is a problem in finding someone who has performed work in that certain county. And when you do find someone, there is always the question of whether he will fill out the form and return it to the Department of Labor, says Shaw. Many feel that it behoves them to maintain a low profile with all the government agencies running around that check on them.

Accepting the responsibility could prevent a "horror story" such as bidding a job, while planning to pay \$4.00/hour and suddenly finding out you get the same money but have to pay \$11.00/hour.

NLA survey finds guarantee confusion

A postcard survey by the National Landscape Association has uncovered considerable disparity in the meaning of growing season in guarantees. Consequently, consumers have little understanding of the term. It should be explained exactly what is meant by growing season during sales transactions, NLA advises.

mowers, walk-behind rotary mowers, snow blowers and rotary tillers.

These assets will become part of, and the Hahn product line will be manufactured by the Gravely Division, a manufacturer of lawn and garden tractors.

Lloyd Hahn will act as full-time consultant to Gravely. The acquisition of the Hahn assets allows Gravely to become a full-line producer of lawn and garden equipment.

The present distributor organization for Hahn will continue to distribute the line.

RECREATIONAL TURF

Symposium is set on wastewater irrigation

"Wastewater Irrigation of Recreational Turf" is the topic of a two-day symposium Nov. 12-14 at the Arlington Park Hilton outside of Chicago.

The conference is a joint venture of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section, the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) and the National Golf Foundation (NGF). More than 300 persons are expected to attend.

For further information, contact: Al Radko, national director, USGA Green Section, P.O. Box 1237, Highland Park, NJ 08904, 201/572-0456; E. Larry Packard, president, ASGCA, 11 S. LaGrange Rd., LaGrange, IL 60525, 312/352-2113; Don A. Rossi, executive director, NGF, 200 Castlewood Dr., N. Palm Beach, FL 33408, 305/844-2500.

EQUIPMENT

Ransomes, Wisconsin in new venture

England's Ransomes Sims and Jefferies, Ltd. has acquired equity interest in Wisconsin Marine, Inc., Lake Mills, Wis, according to Wisconsin Marine president Dane T. Scag.

Ransomes is Europe's largest manufacturer of professional grass machinery. The company manufactures reel-type machines ranging in size from 20 inches to 15 feet.

Wisconsin Marine has been a manufacturer of snow thrower equipment for more than 20 years. In 1974 the company introduced a line of commercial rotary mowers under the trademark "Bob-Cat." Ran-

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

Small businesses exempted from OSHA logs

Small businesses would no longer have to keep logs about occupational injuries or illnesses under an agreement reached in a congressional conference committee on the Small Business Authorization Bill.

Businesses with 10 or fewer fulltime employees would not have to keep the logs for the Occupational Health and Safety Administration unless the company owner was part of a survey of small businesses.

A committee staffer who worked on the bill said, "Businessmen should like this provision because we know they really hate to keep records."

Another provision of the amendment to the Small Business bill would prohibit OSHA from imposing civil penalties against a company with 10 or fewer fulltime employees on first-time OSHA inspections, which found 10 or fewer nonserious violations.

The conference committee report must be voted on by both houses and signed by the president before becoming law. Congress is expected to act on the legislation before the session recesses in October.

Although the amendment would limit some of OSHA's regulations, some congressmen felt the bill did not go far enough.

U.S. Sen. Dewey Bartlett (R-Ok.) proposed a tougher amendment which was defeated in the conference committee.

One of the senator's aides said, "Because the amendment says, '10 or fewer violations,' I think you'll see a lot of inspections where they find 11 violations. Sen. Bartlett will vote against the bill, I think."

FIFRA approved by Congress

With the passage of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act by both Congressional houses, the bill is expected to be signed by President Jimmy Carter.

Congressional staffers, who worked on the bill, expect the president's approval because the Environmental Protection Agency worked closely with the drafting of the bill.

"We worked so closely with EPA that it is unlikely there will be any problem," said a spokesman for U.S. Rep. Floyd Fithian (D-Ind.). Fithian drafted amendments to the bill.

An EPA spokesman said, "While we don't agree with everything in the bill, we are not going to ask the president to veto it."

The bill was passed by voice vote in the House on Sept. 19 and in the Senate on Sept. 18.

FIFRA would make states the primary enforcers of the law rather than the EPA. It would make these exceptions in the applications:

- using a pesticide at less than label concentration;
- mixing pesticides with fertilizer not specifically prohibited by the label;
- applying a pesticide for a target pest not listed on the label providing the application is to a labelled crop, animal or site and the label does not specifically prohibit use against that target pest;
- using a method of application not listed on the label.

DBCP restrictions made permanent

The Environmental Protection Agency has made permanent its temporary restrictions on the pesticide Dibromochloropropane, DBCP, which is used on lawns, golf courses and ornamentals.

DBCP is used against nematodes. The permanent restrictions are subject to a hearing, which must be requested by mid-October. Even if a hearing is requested the temporary restrictions would remain in force.

somes has been marketing a range of rotary mowers manufactured by Wisconsin Marine.

Wisconsin Marine sales have doubled each year since 1975 and projections show a continuing substantial growth for the next five years. To support expansion plans the company recently acquired an option to purchase 40 acres in Johnson Creek, Wis. Construction will begin this year on a 90,000-square-foot manufacturing plant, which will more than double the present facilities.

SEED

Pickseed to market two new ryegrasses

Pickseed West, Inc., Tangent, Ore., has introduced two new turf-type perennial ryegrasses — Fiesta and Blazer — to be available for distributor sales this year.

The two new ryegrasses are characterized by fine texture, low growth, rapid germination, excellent seedling vigor, disease resistance and winter hardiness, the company said.

Fiesta is earlier in maturity and has a medium dark green color, while Blazer is a later variety with a truly dark green appearance.

Both of these ryegrasses perform well in bermudagrass overseeding, in turf mixtures, or in monoculture seeding. They are also available in Pickseed's new turfgrass mixture, Futura.

According to marketing manager Mike Robinson, Fiesta, Blazer and Futura will be distributed by Pickseed West, and also by Otto Pick & Sons Seeds, Ltd., Richmond Hill, Ontario.

MARKETING

Lofts establishes new sod division

Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc., Bound Brook, N.J. has established the Lofts Proprietary Turf Division to cater to the special needs of sod growers.

The new division will handle every available proprietary grass seed and blend, regardless of the producer, from its distribution points across the United States.

The new division will be staffed by men and women specially trained in every phase of sod production, with special backing by Lofts director of agronomy Richard Hurley.